

REMARKS

This timely filed Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement and requested selection of one of the three (3) species as detailed below:

Species I: Figure 2 is drawn to an acoustic combination embodiment of the invention in the form of a standard integrated circuit.

Species II: Figure 5A is drawn to another acoustic combination embodiment in the form a hybrid microphone-amplifier packaging scheme.

Species III: Figure 6 is drawn to another acoustic combination embodiment in the form of a printed circuit board array.

In this Reply, Applicants hereby elect Species III comprising claims 48-70 and have cancelled claims 1-47, without prejudice. The election is made with traverse as described below. Claims 48 and 49 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim 1 is a genus claim drawn to a microphone and amplifier coupled to one another and formed on an integrated circuit (hybrid package called combination in claim 1). This is what is shown in Fig. 2 that is identified by the Examiner as Species I. The microphone and interface circuitry make up the hybrid package, which is a SINGLE CHANNEL of a microphone ARRAY. The asserted Species III being the PCB array is again a species of claim 1 because the ARRAY is comprised of a plurality of hybrid packages laid out on a PCB board.

Based on the above election, Applicants request removal of the restriction requirement and substantive examination of claims 48-70 as well as Species I claims 1-35 based on the reasons for

traversal described above. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that the above restriction election is incomplete or improper in any way, or if a telephonic interview will expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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